

Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A multifunctional synthetic bioabsorbable device comprising:
 - a synthetic bioabsorbable oriented polymeric matrix;
 - solid particles of a pharmacological agent[[,] ; and
 - cavities induced around the solid particles of the pharmacological agent dispersed in said synthetic bioabsorbable oriented polymeric matrix, ~~said cavities existing in said matrix as a result of orientation and mechanical solid-state processing of a mixture of the matrix and said particles;~~ wherein the pharmacological agent is capable of retaining ~~retains~~ its solid particulate form in the melt-processing temperature of the matrix.
2. (Previously presented) The multifunctional device of claim 1, wherein the device has reduced Young's modulus and increased elasticity in comparison with a device comprising the same synthetic bioabsorbable polymeric matrix and processed in the same way but comprising no particles of pharmacological agent, the reduced Young's modulus and increased elasticity being because of a cavitated spindle-shaped or oval-shaped porous structure resulting from the processing of said mixture.
3. (Previously presented) The multifunctional device of claim 1, wherein the device is a suture, fiber, thread, cord, or wire.
4. (Previously presented) The multifunctional device of claim 3, wherein the device is a mesh.
5. (Previously presented) The multifunctional device of claim 4, wherein the device is a mesh comprising fibers of differing bioabsorbable properties.
6. (Previously presented) The multifunctional device of claim 5, wherein the mesh comprises bioabsorbable fibers and non-bioabsorbable fibers, or fibers of differing bioabsorption

rates.

7. (Previously presented) The multifunctional device of claim 1, wherein the pharmacological agent is an antibiotic.

8. (Previously presented) The multifunctional device of claim 2, wherein the pharmacological agent is an antibiotic.

9. (Previously presented) The multifunctional device of claim 3, wherein the pharmacological agent is an antibiotic.

10. (Previously presented) The multifunctional device of claim 1, wherein said pharmacological agent comprises 0.01 to 50 wt-% of the weight of the said multifunctional device.

11. (Previously presented) The multifunctional device of claim 2, wherein said pharmacological agent comprises 0.01 to 50 wt-% of the weight of the said multifunctional device.

12. (Previously presented) The multifunctional device of claim 3, wherein said pharmacological agent comprises 0.01 to 50 wt-% of the weight of the said multifunctional device.

13. (Previously presented) The multifunctional device of claim 10, wherein said pharmacological agent comprises 1-10 wt-% of the weight of the said multifunctional device.

14. (Previously presented) The multifunctional device of claim 11, wherein said pharmacological agent comprises 1-10 wt-% of the weight of the said multifunctional device.

15. (Previously presented) The multifunctional device of claim 12, wherein said pharmacological agent comprises 1-10 wt-% of the weight of the said multifunctional device.

16. (Previously presented) The multifunctional device of claim 3, wherein the said multifunctional device is monofilamentous in its structure.
17. (Previously presented) The multifunctional device of claim 4, wherein the said multifunctional device is monofilamentous in its structure.
18. (Previously presented) The multifunctional device of claim 7, wherein the said multifunctional device is monofilamentous in its structure.
19. (Previously presented) The multifunctional device of claim 3, wherein the said multifunctional device is multifilamentous in its structure.
20. (Previously presented) The multifunctional device of claim 4, wherein the said multifunctional device is multifilamentous in its structure.
21. (Previously presented) The multifunctional device of claim 7, wherein the said multifunctional device is multifilamentous in its structure.
22. (Previously presented) The multifunctional device of claim 1, wherein the said multifunctional device has a drug releasing function effective to inhibit bacterial attachment and biofilm formation.
23. (Previously presented) The multifunctional device of claim 2, wherein the said multifunctional device has a drug releasing function effective to inhibit bacterial attachment and biofilm formation.
24. (Previously presented) The multifunctional device of claim 3, wherein the said multifunctional device has a drug releasing function effective to inhibit bacterial attachment and biofilm formation.

25. (Previously presented) The multifunctional device of claim 1, wherein the said multifunctional device is made by melt or solution processing technique and subsequent processing method.
26. (Previously presented) The multifunctional device of claim 25, wherein the subsequent processing method is fiber spinning.
27. (Cancelled).
28. (Withdrawn) A method of implanting the multifunctional device of claim 1, comprising implanting the said multifunctional device in a subject.
29. (Withdrawn) A method of manufacturing the multifunctional synthetic bioabsorbable device of claim 1, comprising:
- providing a synthetic bioabsorbable polymeric matrix,
 - dispersing particles of pharmacological agent in said synthetic bioabsorbable polymeric matrix,
 - mechanically processing and orienting a mixture of the matrix and particles in solid state to induce cavities around said particles.
30. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 28 for wound closure, comprising
- providing a suture according to claim 2,
 - approximating wound edges and closing the wound by means of the suture.
31. (New) The multifunctional device of claim 1, wherein the synthetic bioabsorbable oriented polymeric matrix is of poly- α -hydroxy acid polymer.